

Rolla Clymer correspondence

Section 312, Pages 9331 - 9360

This series of the Rolla Clymer collection includes sent and received correspondence arranged chronologically beginning in 1909. With few exceptions, the correspondence provides a continuous and very complete view of his activities. Much of the earliest correspondence in the Clymer collection pertains to information about the College of Emporia for the period Clymer was a student there. Scattered throughout the remainder of the correspondence is information about Emporia athletics and alumni activities and letters with former classmates. From 1914 to 1918, Clymer was editor and manager of the Olathe, Kansas, Register. In 1918, Rolla Clymer moved his young family to El Dorado, Kansas, where he became editor and manager of the El Dorado Republican. Except for a six month hiatus in 1937 as editor and manager of the Santa Fe New Mexican in Santa Fe, New Mexico, Clymer served the remainder of his professional career in El Dorado.

In his later years, Clymer devoted much of his time to efforts to preserve the Kansas Flint Hills region which he dearly loved. In addition to newspaper editorials, he wrote and published numerous widely circulated articles and poems about the Flint Hills. Perhaps his best known tribute was his poem "Majesty of the Hills," which helped earn him the designation as Poet Laureate of the Flint Hills. Rolla Clymer died on June 4, 1977, having been the editor of the El Dorado Times for fifty-nine years. For a complete contents list of the Rolla Clymer collection, see the External Links below.

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CONSOLIDATION OF COUNTIES

If consolidation is a good thing for railroads and big business in eliminating overhead expense, it is a good thing for the biggest business of all - Government.

Long ago this plan was recognized by school districts consolidating to save money or get better schools, sometimes both.

It has long been recognized by county fair organizations, two or more combining to hold one good paying fair rather than several small ones, poorly attended end each winding up with a deficit to be met by the farmers and business men back of it. Consolidation is used by dairy and other farm associations.

More recently Washington (president Coolidge) has consolidated some Boards and Commissions at a saving of millions in taxation. State governments have followed suit.

County consolidation, or consolidation of the county offices, should save half of the local tex. One court house, instead of four or five; one jail, one county farm etc. - the district court holding session in one fixed place instead of moving from place to place, and above all one set of county officials, since even their second terms will have expired before consolidation became effective, this would not concern present officials.

Heretofore the custom was to divide large counties. Fermers voted for the division in order to place themselves within driving distance of the County seat. But distance has been greatly eliminated by automobiles, good roads, telephones, rural mail, radio and the nearest local bank attending to the farmers' taxes and other business heretofore transacted by him in person. So the location of the county buildings and county officials is for less important than formerly.

Everybody says he wants to help the farmer, and opens up on the railroads. Here the farmer and railroads can join hands with all other tax payers, and if the railroad saves half the local taxes it will be in position to reduce freight rates.

Consolidation would work best where counties are smell and thinly populated. There is little reason for such counties to have almost the same overhead as larger and more thickly populated counties.

Then, again, nature has fixed certain natural boundaries, such as the San Luis Valley of Southern Colorado, for which consolidation was first proposed. This Valley with all-year good roads seems meant by Nature for one County and judicial district, as it has one climate, one water shed and is entirely surrounded by high mountains. It already has many consolidated schools.

NOTE * One state in Mexico has three legislatures and seven governors: We laugh --why? San Luis Valley, Colorado had six sets of officials for its population of 31,928 in 1920, one county having less than 800 people, only one had over 8000.

FRED L. MORRIS, Lawrence, Kansas.



















































































































